

Trees on Maine Street

∞ The Project Canopy Bulletin ∞



July - August 2012

Emerald Ash Borer Reaches New England

The first detection of emerald ash borer in New England occurred in Connecticut earlier this month. The detection tool was a native, ground-nesting wasp affectionately called the smoky-winged beetle bandit, and known to the scientific community as *Cerceris fumipennis*. Although the detection is not good news for New England's ash trees, it is better to have emerald ash borer and know it, than to have emerald ash borer undetected in your forests or street trees. The invasive wood-boring beetle was also detected on purple prism traps in the same town where the wasp found them as well as on traps set in a neighboring town. The press release from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station can be viewed [here](#).

Colleen Teerling, Maine Forest Service Entomologist, has been a national leader in developing the smoky-winged beetle bandit as a detection tool. This news points up how the wasp is a valuable addition to surveying for the emerald ash borer. Kudos to Colleen and her collaborators.

Emerald ash borer has not yet been found in Maine. Maine's program to detect emerald ash borer includes three formal survey tools and the very important, but informal survey tool, the informed public. This year the majority of our emerald ash borer survey resources are focused on a large-scale purple prism trap survey. Volunteers and cooperators have carried the weight for the

other two formal survey components: biosurveillance using *Cerceris fumipennis* and girdled trap trees.

More about these survey tools can be found on our Websites:

www.maineforestservice.gov/purpletraps.htm,
www.maine.gov/cerceris and
www.maineforestservice.gov/AB_trap_trees.htm.

In Maine, the purple traps were all set by early June. The mid-season lure-change and trap screening is under way. Emerald ash borer has not been detected in any of the traps serviced to-date.



PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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"It's the flock, the grove, that matters. Our responsibility is to species, not to specimens; to communities, not to individuals."

- Sara Stein, 1998, *Author of Noah's Garden*

News and Updates

The last several weeks have been dry in most of Maine. Think about watering more than just your vegetable garden during summer dry spells. Periods without rain, or with hit-or-miss showers can add stress to your important ornamental trees. Established trees can often handle such dry periods in the absence of other stressors, such as poor site or defoliation, but recent transplants (think several years), seedlings and trees under stress from other agents could use supplemental watering in dry periods.

As a rule of thumb, try to make sure your important ornamental trees receive an inch of water a week throughout the growing season. If you don't have a rain gauge, NOAA has some tools to help track precipitation patterns. You can look at past precipitation from several angles on their precipitation page (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>).

Outward symptoms of damage from drought may not materialize for years to come. If you have valued ornamental trees, be sure to care for them now so they provide benefits into the future.

Calendar

August

8 Forest Resources Assoc. mtg. Joel Swanton 745-2435
22-23 Maine Farm Days, Clinton. mainefarmdays.com
30 Planning and Managing a Timber Harvest at the Wells Reserve. 4 Sessions. Register online at: wellsreserve.org/
yankeewoodlot questions Tin Smith 646-1555 ext. 119

September

6 Hands-On GPS Training - Farmington, Franklin County SWCD
21-23 Common Ground Country Fair, Unity. mofga.org
24-25 Tree Risk Assessment: The Biomechanics of Stability, Strength, and Structure. Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois <http://www.mortonarb.org/tree-risk>
27 Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Fair, Union Fairgrounds. rebecca@knox-lincoln.org or 596-2040

2012 Oxford County Big Tree Contest

The Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) and the Maine Forest Service in Oxford County are hosting the 2012 Oxford County Big Tree Contest. The contest began June 15 and will continue through the summer. OCSWCD would like you to help them find the biggest native trees in the county. It's educational, it's fun and the results will be sent on to the Maine Forest Service to see if Oxford County can beat any of the state records. In addition, a database of these trees will be completed for future use and reference. Oxford County currently holds the record for eight different species.

Some trees on the list have special significance. The Pitch Pine, which most of us remember as being plentiful, has diminished in numbers partly due to the fact that it uses fire to reproduce; the American Sycamore no longer has any known native populations in the state although it historically grew in Southern Maine; and most of the American Chestnut trees have been destroyed by the chestnut blight fungus.

With this in mind, the contest is focused on finding the 14 Native Conifers (evergreens) and the 52 Native Broadleaf (leafy) varieties of trees found in Maine. In the past some of these trees, such as the Chestnut Oak, have only been found in specific areas of the state but may have now moved further north, south or west to Oxford County. A list of these and an entry form may be obtained on the OCSWCD website www.oxfordswcd.net, by stopping in at the office on 17 Olson Road, South Paris, or by calling Jean Federico at (207)743-5789, ext. 111. Tree guides will be available to help in the "search" for big trees, but keep in mind that if you are not the owner of the land on which the big tree grows, you do need to get permission from the landowner to go onto the land and to nominate a tree on that land.

In addition to the Big Tree Contest, the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District is asking anyone who may know of the location of a Black Oxford apple tree, thought to have originated here in this area, to please let them know of its location. These will then be mapped and recorded for historical purposes.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get out in the woods this summer, as a family or for quiet reflection, and become a part of something special. Monthly newsletters and quizzes will be available for those who would like to sign up to receive them by email, so come on, get off the couch and start searching for those trees!

"No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets."

- Henry Ward Beecher, Proverbs, 1887

Fraxinus Americana, White Ash

White ash is one of Maine's valuable timber trees and is found commonly throughout the state. Best growth occurs on rich, rather moist soil of low hills. It grows to a height of 60–70 feet and a diameter of 15–30 inches. The branches are upright or spreading, forming a narrow top in the forest. The bark pattern resembles a woven basket; it is broken into broad, parallel ridges by deep furrows, and is dark brown or deep gray.

The leaves are opposite, 8–12 inches long and consist of 5–9 (usually 7) leaflets. The leaflets are 3–5 inches long, oval to lance-shape, borne on short stalks, edges remotely toothed towards the tip, dark green and often shiny on the upper surface. In fall, they turn to a soft, velvety purple.

The fruit is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed body is cigar-shaped and has a terminal wing.

The twigs have a smooth, shiny bark which is grayish, greenish or maroon on the surface. The inner layer of the bark is brick red. The terminal buds are rounded or dome-shaped.

The wood is hard, strong and tough. It is used for agricultural implements, tool handles, oars, furniture, interior finish, dowels, pulp and firewood, and sporting goods including baseball bats, hockey sticks and snowshoe frames.



Firewood and Forest Pests: The Risk of Spread by Recreationists?

This webinar is scheduled for Aug 29, 2012 12:00 pm

The potential for accidental, long-distance transport of invasive insects and pathogens in untreated firewood has become a topic of considerable concern in North America. The issue has been the subject of national-scale public awareness campaigns in both the U.S. and Canada, as well as similar campaigns by individual states and provinces. Currently, a majority of U.S. states have imposed restrictions on firewood movement, in some cases enforced with fines or other penalties for violations. Nevertheless, despite this attention, there has been little quantitative analysis of the risks posed by recreational movement of firewood. This may be partially explained by a lack of data on firewood transport and utilization by campers. In this webinar, the presenter will provide some context regarding firewood and forest pests, and will also discuss what has been learned about this issue through indirect analysis of camper travel patterns rather than their actual use of firewood.

To register: <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/firewood-and-forest-pest-the-risk-of-spread-by-recreationist> ☞



John Nutting stands next to a toppled silver maple tree that is believed to be about 390 years old. Nutting believes the tree that grew along the Androscoggin River bank in Leeds fell after the river surrounded the trunk during the heavy rain storms at the beginning of June 2012.

Read the story at <http://bangordailynews.com/2012/07/08/news/lewis-ton-auburn/ancient-maple-succumbs-to-age-androscoggin-river-in-leeds/>

Daryn Slover photo.

"Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."

- J. Sterling Morton

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Community Wrap-up

A Full Day of Tree Topics at New Sharon School

Thanks to the generosity of the Maine Forest Service and Irving Woodlands LLC, MFS District Forester Patty Cormier met with 6 separate classes at the Cape Cod Hill Elementary School in New Sharon to give out a seedling for each student and talk with each class about planting, how trees grow and answering many questions. Many of the students have relatives that work in fields related to trees so there was good discussion throughout the day on the value of trees to Maine.

Arbor Day celebrated at Mallett School with tree planting

- Bobbie Hanstein, Daily Bulldog

FARMINGTON - More than two dozen trees, along with colorful flowers, were planted by the 400 students at W.G. Mallett School in celebration of Farmington's Arbor Day on Wednesday.

School staff and members of the Farmington Conservation Commission worked together to design, raise funds and help the students plant 29 trees native to Maine on school grounds in what is the start of an arboretum. Out front, students also planted four apple trees for the start of a small orchard and sugar maples along the campus perimeter that will one day be big enough to tap, Principal Tracy Williams said.

At an assembly of students sitting outside on a shaded bank, Williams pointed out the compost used to plant the trees was made by the Sandy River Recycling Association at the transfer station in Farmington, which incorporates vegetable scraps collected from Mallett School.

"Our cafeteria leftovers are coming back to help us out," she said.

District Forester Patty Cormier wished the students a "Happy Arbor Week," noting that since 1978 Maine celebrates trees during the third week of May each year. Farmington selectmen proclaimed today as Farmington's Arbor Day in which activities are traditionally held on the designated day.

"Today we celebrate how important trees are to us," Cormier said. With that, classes fanned out across campus to their assigned trees for planting.

To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://www.forestsformainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/>



A \$1,000 Project Canopy grant awarded through the Maine Forest Service provided help with planting and maintenance with a grant match of a tree donation to the local commission from Dutton's Greenhouse and Nursery in Morrill when it closed down last fall. In addition, Robin's Flower Pot of Farmington donated one tree and Tree Line Landscape of Farmington donated a few more.

Central Maine Power handed a tree seedling to every student to take home and plant.

"It was very much a cooperative effort," said Peter Tracy, chairman of the Farmington Conservation Commission.



Mallett School third-grade students, from left to right: Nicholas Fraser, Kyla Morgan, Keegan Roberts and Paige Ward, lift an apple tree into the hole in the ground they had dug, as their teacher Alex Ernst, as far left, lends a hand.

Original story at: <http://www.dailybulldog.com/db/features/arbor-day-celebrated-at-mallett-school-with-tree-planting/>

"The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life and activity; it affords protection to all beings."

- Buddhist Sutra

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Maine Forest Service

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Forest Policy and Management Division

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